
Being Prepared for an Epidemic of Cholera



Preparedness Components - 1

- **Ensure that the surveillance system can detect an epidemic of cholera**
- **Ensure the ability to get laboratory confirmation**
- **Identify and address training needs**
- **Maintain reserve stock of supplies and equipment**

Preparedness Components - 2

- **Organize an epidemic committee**
- **Plan logistics and staff needed to respond**
- **Ensure financial support is available**
- **Make an emergency response plan**
- **Evaluate epidemic preparedness**

Preparedness

- Evaluate level of preparedness
 - *before* an epidemic
to be ready to detect & respond
 - *during* an epidemic
so that the response is effective
 - *after* an epidemic
in order to improve

Can the Surveillance System Detect an Epidemic of Cholera?

Routine Reporting & Emergency Notification

- Can health workers (HW) recognize cholera?**
- Do HWs know the case definitions?**
- Do HWs know HOW to report?**
- Do HWs know WHAT to report?**
- In endemic areas, is the weekly number of cases being followed?**

Can the Surveillance System Detect an Epidemic of Cholera?

Investigation Team

- Have members been identified?**
- Have members been trained or briefed on their duties?**
- Has funding for investigations been found?**
- Have supplies been provided for?**

Ensure Ability to Get Laboratory Confirmation

- **Are staff trained to collect specimens?**
- **Are supplies for collection & transport available?**
- **Have laboratories been identified?**
- **Have funds been allocated?**

Train Staff in Knowledge and Skills Needed

- **Determine staff responsibilities**
- **Decide who needs to be trained**
- **Decide what they need to learn to do**
- **Make a training plan**
 - what training is needed before an epidemic?
 - what training will be needed when an epidemic begins?
- **Conduct training**

Train Clinical Staff

Before an Epidemic

- **Basic epidemiology of cholera**
- **How to recognize cholera**
- **Case definitions**
- **How to report suspected cases**
- **Clinical management**
 - **All health workers should be up to date on diarrhea case management**

Train Clinical Staff

At the Start of an Epidemic

- **Clinical management**
 - review of CDD, specific to cholera
- **Record keeping**
- **How to report / what to report**
- **Inventory of supplies**
- **Community Control Measures**
- **Public education**

Train District Public Health Staff

Before an Epidemic

- **Basic epidemiology of cholera**
- **How to recognize cholera**
 - **Endemic areas (follow # of cases weekly)**
 - **Non-endemic areas (be alert for cases)**
- **Case definitions**
- **How to report suspected cases**
- **District preparedness**

Train District Public Health Staff

At the Start of an Epidemic

- **Field investigation**
- **Laboratory confirmation**
- **Reporting**
- **Inventory, ordering supplies**
- **Community Control Measures**
- **Public education**

Identify & Address Training Needs

- What % of clinical staff are up-to-date?
- Is there a plan to train HWs *before* an epidemic? Is it being done?
- Is there a plan to quickly train HWs at the time of an epidemic?
- Has funding been allocated for training?

Maintain Reserve Stock of Supplies

- Is there a reserve stock of supplies?
 - Where is it located? How much is there?
- Do district officials know how to request more supplies?
- Is there a stock of materials needed for laboratory confirmation?
- Has funding been found for the reserves?

Organize Epidemic Committee

- Is there a cholera committee?
OR
- A cholera sub-group of a crisis or diarrheal disease committee?
- Does the committee meet regularly?
- Are members working to prepare the district for a possible epidemic of cholera?

Plan Staff and Logistics

- Have specific responsibilities been decided?
- Is there a plan for re-assigning staff during an epidemic?
 - Is there a plan for enlisting additional personnel (e.g. nursing students)?
 - Is there a plan to train volunteers to help?
- Is there a plan for setting up Temporary Treatment Centers?
- Have logistics needs been identified?
- Has funding for staff costs and logistics been allocated?

Financial Planning

- Have costs related to *preparation* for an epidemic been identified?
- Have costs related to *investigation and confirmation* been identified?
- Have costs related to *response* been identified?
- Has a source of funding been found for each expense?

Emergency Response Plan

- **Is there an Emergency Response Plan for responding to an epidemic?**
- **Are all persons and agencies that are mentioned in the plan, aware of the plan?**

Evaluate Epidemic Preparedness

- **Has the district's level of preparedness been evaluated?**
- **If so, were the results of the evaluation acted on?**
- **Are regular, periodic evaluations scheduled?**